

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during December 2010

As of December 31, 2010, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 200 percent of average to date; runoff, 160 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 210 percent of average for the date (75 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 115 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through December 31, 2010 was about 4.7 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 148 percent of average. For comparison, on December 31, 2009, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 1.5 MAF, or about 47 percent of average.

December was an extremely wet and mild month up and down the State. On January 1, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 31.9 inches, which is about 180 percent of the seasonal average to date and 64 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During December, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 16.4 inches, about 195 percent of the monthly average. Last year on January 1, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 13.6 inches, or about 76 percent of average for the date.

On January 1, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 31.7 inches, which is about 246 percent of the seasonal average to date and 78 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During December, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 17.3 inches, about 279 percent of the monthly average. Last year on January 1, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 13.7 inches, or about 106 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 12/31/2010 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2010 - 2011 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2009 - 2010 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2010 - 2011
Eureka	20.44	129	11.38	72	54
Redding	16.02	138	6.81	59	48
Sacramento	9.38	156	7.28	121	52
San Francisco	9.26	138	6.50	97	46
Fresno	8.16	242	4.01	119	73
Bakersfield	7.25	386	1.85	98	112
Los Angeles	10.98	296	3.36	91	83
San Diego	8.11	257	2.40	76	75

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 12/31/2010								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,705	1,668	102	2,448	70	---	743
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,489	2,897	120	4,552	77	160	1,063
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,180	2,226	98	3,538	62	-608	1,358
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	737	537	137	966	76	-59	229
Folsom Lake	American	442	479	92	977	45	-135	535
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,480	1,344	110	2,420	61	-490	940
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,716	1,329	129	2,030	85	26	314
Lake McClure	Merced	770	454	169	1,025	75	95	255
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	438	278	158	520	84	54	82
Pine Flat Res	Kings	634	418	152	1,000	63	-1	366
Isabella	Kern	235	154	153	568	41	65	333
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,533	1,401	109	2,039	75	---	506

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for January 2011, issued December 31, 2010, suggests above average rainfall for Southern and Central California. No tendency for above or below average rainfall is suggested for Northern California.